



City of Bellevue
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RECEIVED

SEP 10 2021
DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

September 7, 2021

Gary Spackman, Director
Idaho Department of Water Resources
322 E Front St. Suite 648
Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear Director Spackman,

Due to the extreme and exceptional drought in much of Blaine County and the many demands on our river system, the Big Wood River's streambed is now dry adjacent to the City of Bellevue. We have included photos. Residents and the municipality of Bellevue are deeply concerned about the impacts to our local economy, recreational opportunities and the city's water supply.

The Big Wood River supports a high quality trout fishery which attracts anglers from across the country in every season. Visitors to Bellevue use the Big Wood from fishing access points within the city limits and throughout the county, spending money in our restaurants, gas stations, hotels and grocery stores. Tourism is the top driver in the Blaine County economy and one of the top industries in the state. The loss of the Big Wood's stream flows in our local community is an economic loss that will reverberate across our town, county and state.

Bellevue's families and many from around the county come to enjoy the Big Wood River and the City of Bellevue's largest park, the Howard Preserve, along the banks of the river. Many who do visit from other communities also spend time eating out at local restaurants or filling their gas tanks in town. Further loss of water threatens the recreational and wildlife values of the Howard Preserve, and, again, our town's economic base.

As you may know, the City of Bellevue's water supply comes from springs and groundwater wells. When surface water is gone in the Big Wood, the city also has concerns about impacts to groundwater temperatures and the quality of our water from our wells.

The City of Bellevue requests consideration for all of these values the Big Wood bring to our city in the on-going negotiations regarding water use and future curtailment in Basin 37.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ned Burns".

Ned Burns, Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn Goldman".

Kathryn Goldman, City Council President











